



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA APPROVES OVER \$350 MILLION IN DISASTER LOANS TO TROPICAL STORM ALLISON VICTIMS

WASHINGTON-The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved more than \$350 million in disaster loans to over 13,000 homeowners, renters and businesses in Texas and Louisiana in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Allison, SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said today.

Nearly three months after the ferocious storm brought torrential rain and flooding to parts of Louisiana, causing major damage to the Houston area, the SBA continues its long-term recovery efforts. **"It may take years for some of these communities to rebound, but SBA will be there as long as it takes to help businesses and homeowners as they rebuild their lives,"** Barreto said.

So far 11,942 Texas residents have been approved for more than \$327 million in disaster loans. More than 1,800 Louisiana residents have been approved for \$24 million in loans.

Those who suffered flood losses are urged to call FEMA at (800) 462-9029 to begin the process for federal disaster assistance. SBA staff is available at this number to answer questions about disaster loans.

The SBA makes low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters and non-farm businesses of all sizes. Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace damaged real estate. Individuals may borrow up to \$40,000 to cover uninsured losses to personal property.

Non-farm businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may apply for up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace business assets. Small businesses that suffered economic losses may apply for a working capital loan of up to \$1.5 million, even if the property was not physically damaged.

During fiscal year 2001, SBA has so far made \$949.9 million in disaster loans to 46,640 homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes.

To find out more about SBA's disaster assistance program, visit the web site at www.sba.gov/disaster.

For more information about all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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